HISTORY DO NOW: THE LEVITTOWN RULES

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

> ***Context:*** *In 1947, William Levitt began building mass-produced suburbs for returning WWII veterans. To keep the community "orderly," he created a strict set of bylaws.*
>
> ***Task:*** *Below are 10 rules.* ***Seven are REAL*** *historical bylaws from Levittown, and* ***three are FAKES****. Mark which you think are which.*

The Rule	Real or Fake?
1. Lawns must be mowed at least once a week; if not, the developer will mow it and bill you.	
2. No laundry may be hung out to dry on weekends or holidays.	
3. Houses may only be occupied by members of the Caucasian race.	
4. No household may own more than one dog, and it must weigh under 25 pounds.	
5. No fences of any kind are permitted to be built between properties.	
6. Front doors may only be painted in "Levitt-Approved" shades of cream, pale green, or blue.	
7. Homeowners are required to maintain exactly two fruit trees in their backyard.	
8. No hedges or shrubs may be grown higher than three feet tall.	

The Rule	Real or Fake?
9. No broken-down cars or "eyesore" vehicles may be parked on the street.	
10. All outdoor porch lights must be extinguished by 11:00 PM.	

Critical Thinking

1. Identify the fakes: Based on the reveal, which three were fake?

_____

2. Analysis: Why would a developer include Rule #3 (The Race Clause) in 1947? What does this tell us about who was allowed to move into the new American suburbs?

3. Prediction: If everyone's house, lawn, and laundry habits are identical, how does this affect the "culture" of the 1950s? (Keyword: Conformity)

Source: 1947-1948 Levitt & Sons Lease/Purchase Agreements